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| APPLICATION NO.                   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.     | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 10/023,378                        | 12/12/2001  | Brian Holtz          | 0007056-0225/P5926      | 2449             |
| 26263                             | 7590        | 06/24/2005           | EXAMINER                |                  |
| SONNENSCHEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP |             |                      | CHOW, CHIH CHING        |                  |
| P.O. BOX 061080                   |             |                      | ART UNIT                | PAPER NUMBER     |
| WACKER DRIVE STATION, SEARS TOWER |             |                      |                         | 2192             |
| CHICAGO, IL 60606-1080            |             |                      | DATE MAILED: 06/24/2005 |                  |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                             |                  |  |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | Application No.             | Applicant(s)     |  |
|                              | 10/023,378                  | HOLTZ ET AL.     |  |
|                              | Examiner<br>Chih-Ching Chow | Art Unit<br>2192 |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 11 April 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04/16/04.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the application filed on December 12, 2001.
2. The priority date considered for this application is June 4, 2001, which is the filing date of the provisional application no. 60/295,900.
3. Claims 1-30 have been examined.

### *Specification*

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The serial numbers are missing in paragraphs 0001, 0013, and 0014. Appropriate correction is required.

### *Drawings*

5. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: Description for the following items are missing, Figure 9, items 919, 928 and 929. Appropriate correction is required. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

6. The drawings are objected to because Figure 9, the "Created with Trial Edition of SmartDraw 5." label should be removed. Appropriate correction is required. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

8. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,240,414 by Mordechai M. Beizer et al. (hereinafter "Beizer").

**CLAIM**

1. A method for processing conflicts in a first and second file tree comprising:  
presenting one or more conflicts to a user;  
presenting more than one unresolved independent conflicts as a single conflict to said user;  
obtaining input from said user; and  
handling said one or more conflicts and said single conflict based on said input.

**Beizer**

Beizer teaches resolving conflicts in a shared data environment where a plurality of users can concurrently access files. See Beizer column 9, lines 35-52, "according to the invention, the affected user(s) are notified that an **embedded content conflict has occurred** (*presenting one or more conflicts to a user*) but that resolution of the conflict deferred. In the most preferred embodiment, the conflicting documents are both stored in the WorkFolder as alternate "sub-items", where each sub-item is one version of the actual document content or filled placeholder. When a WorkFolder's contents is displayed (*presenting*), the sub-items can be grouped together and identified as representing conflicting alternatives (*presenting more than one unresolved independent conflicts to user*). This may be done automatically by providing sub-items with a special "in conflict" attribute tag. Preferably, any user with the appropriate modify rights can resolve this conflict by explicitly selecting which of the conflicting

**content documents should be preserved (obtaining input from user).** Preferably, the unselected sub-item is then automatically deleted. The conflict also automatically resolves itself if all but one of the conflicting sub-items are deleted or moved elsewhere in the contents (*handling said one or more conflicts and said single conflict based on said input*).

2. The method of claim 1 wherein one or more winning conflicts are applied to a file tree with which they were in conflict.

For the feature of claim 1 see claim 1 rejection. The 'file tree' is actually a file structure (it's well-known for the people in the art to structure files in a 'file tree' structure, such as to group files into directory of files), which is also covered in Beizer's disclosure, see Beizer's column 1, lines 30-34, "Documents and data of this type may be stored in a shared, structured data object (*structured files grouping as a file tree*). These objects generally comprise various sections into which related documents are grouped, one or more forms into which data can be entered, links to other documents, etc. The data object is stored in a manner which allows it to be simultaneously accessed by many different users as needed."

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said winning conflicts are server operations.

For the feature of claim 2 see claim 2 rejection. In Beizer's disclosure, the winning conflicts can be either server or client operations, it depends whichever

is selected by the user. See Beizer's FIG. 3b and 3c.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein said winning conflicts are client operations. Same as claim 3 rejection.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein said server operations are translated back up a conflict list across all previous server operations, and then down a conflict list across all client operations. For the feature of claim 3 see claim 3 rejection. Beizer's teaching also distributes the winning conflict to all the clients, see Beizer's column 4, lines 27-30, "The WorkFolder data object is stored persistently in such a manner that it can be stored, forwarded, and distributed across a network and be accessed and modified by software running on a variety of different platforms." Also see the description of Figure 4, Beizer's column 13, lines 19-64, a series of steps are performed for the replication of the reconciled files, the updates are done at all the effected sites.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein said client operations are translated back up a conflict list across all previous client operations, and then down the conflict list across all server operations. See claim 3, 4 and 5 rejections.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein if said translation is a rename or a reparent of an object of said winning operation, said winning operation is translated to refer to said object using its new lineage. For the feature of claim 5 see claim 5 rejection. In Beizer's reconciliation process, the winning operation is rename/reparent, and a new lineage is thus applied to the winning file.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein if said For the feature of claim 6 see claim 6

translation is a rename or a reparent of one of an ancestor of said object in the tree, said winning operation is translated to refer to the object using its new lineage.

9. The method of claim 3 wherein said winning server operations are en-queued for transmission to the client.

10. The method of claim 4 wherein said winning client operations are applied against said server's filesystem.

11. An article of manufacture comprising:  
a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for processing conflicts in a first and second file tree, said computer readable program code in said article of manufacture comprising:  
computer readable program code configured to cause said computer to present one or more conflicts to a user;  
computer readable program code configured to cause said computer to present more than one unresolved independent conflicts as a single conflict to said user;  
computer readable program code configured to cause said computer to obtain input from said user; and  
computer readable program code configured to cause said computer to

rejection. For the rest of claim 8 feature, see claim 7 rejection.

For the feature of claim 3 see claim 3 rejection. See Claim 5, a series steps (en-queued) are performed in order to replicate reconciled file.

For the feature of claim 4 see claim 4 rejection. For the rest of claim 10 feature, see claim 1, 3, and 5 rejections.

Beizer's teaching is an article of manufacture comprising a computer useable medium, computer readable program code, see Beizer's FIG. 2. For the rest of claim 11 feature see claim 1 rejection.

handle said one or more conflicts and said single conflict based on said input.

12. The article of manufacture of claim 11 wherein one or more winning conflicts are applied to a file tree with which they are in conflict.

For the feature of claim 11 see claim 11 rejection. For the rest of claim 12 feature, see claim 2 rejection.

13. The article of manufacture of claim 12 wherein said winning conflicts are server operations.

For the feature of claim 12 see claim 12 rejection. For the rest of claim 13 feature, see claim 3 rejection.

14. The article of manufacture of claim 12 wherein said winning conflicts are client operations.

For the feature of claim 12 see claim 12 rejection. For the rest of claim 14 feature, see claim 4 rejection.

15. The article of manufacture of claim 13 wherein said server operations are translated back up a conflict list across all previous server operations, and then down a conflict list across all client operations.

For the feature of claim 13 see claim 13 rejection. For the rest of claim 15 feature, see claim 5 rejection.

16. The article of manufacture of claim 14 wherein said client operations are translated back up a conflict list across all previous client operations, and then down the conflict list across all server operations.

For the feature of claim 14 see claim 14 rejection. For the rest of claim 16 feature, see claim 6 rejection.

17. The article of manufacture of claim 15 wherein if said translation is a rename or a reparent of an object of said winning operation, said winning operation is translated to refer to said object using its new lineage.

For the feature of claim 15 see claim 15 rejection. For the rest of claim 17 feature, see claim 7 rejection.

18. The article of manufacture of claim 16 wherein if said translation is a rename or a reparent of one of an ancestor of said object in the tree, said winning operation is translated to refer to the object using its new lineage.

For the feature of claim 16 see claim 16 rejection. For the rest of claim 18 feature, see claim 8 rejection.

19. The article of manufacture of claim 13 wherein said winning server operations are en-queued for transmission to the client.

For the feature of claim 13 see claim 13 rejection. For the rest of claim 19 feature, see claim 9 rejection.

20. The article of manufacture of claim 14 wherein said winning client operations are applied against said server's filesystem.

For the feature of claim 14 see claim 14 rejection. For the rest of claim 20 feature, see claim 10 rejection.

21. A computer program product comprising:  
a computer useable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein configured to process conflicts in a first and second file tree, said computer program product comprising:

computer readable code configured therein to cause a computer to present one or more conflicts to a user;

computer readable code configured therein to cause a computer to present more than one unresolved independent conflicts as a single conflict to said user;

computer readable code configured therein to cause a computer to obtain

Beizer's teaching is computer program product comprising: computer useable medium, computer readable program code, see Beizer's FIG. 2. For the rest of claim 21 feature see claim 1 rejection.

input from said user; and  
computer readable code configured  
therein to cause a computer to handle  
said one or more conflicts and said  
single conflict based on said input.

22. The computer program product of  
claim 21 wherein one or more winning  
conflicts are applied to a file tree with  
which they were in conflict.

For the feature of claim 21 see claim 21  
rejection. For the rest of claim 22  
feature, see claim 2 rejection.

23. The computer program product of  
claim 22 wherein said winning conflicts  
are server operations.

For the feature of claim 22 see claim 22  
rejection. For the rest of claim 23  
feature, see claim 3 rejection.

24. The computer program product of  
claim 22 wherein said winning conflicts  
are client operations.

For the feature of claim 22 see claim 22  
rejection. For the rest of claim 24  
feature, see claim 4 rejection.

25. The computer program product of  
claim 23 wherein said server operations  
are translated back up a conflict list  
across all previous server operations,  
and then down a conflict list across all  
client operations.

For the feature of claim 23 see claim 23  
rejection. For the rest of claim 25  
feature, see claim 5 rejection.

26. The computer program product of  
claim 24 wherein said client operations  
are translated back up a conflict list  
across all previous client operations, and  
then down the conflict list across all  
server operations.

For the feature of claim 24 see claim 24  
rejection. For the rest of claim 26  
feature, see claim 6 rejection.

27. The computer program product of  
claim 25 wherein if said translation is a  
rename or a reparent of an object of

For the feature of claim 25 see claim 25  
rejection. For the rest of claim 27  
feature, see claim 7 rejection.

said winning operation, said winning operation is translated to refer to said object using its new lineage.

28. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein if said translation is a rename or a reparent of one of an ancestor of said object in the tree, said winning operation is translated to refer to the object using its new lineage.

29. The computer program product of claim 23 wherein said winning server operations are en-queued for transmission to the client.

30. The computer program product of claim 24 wherein said winning client operations are applied against said server's filesystem.

For the feature of claim 26 see claim 26 rejection. For the rest of claim 28 feature, see claim 8 rejection.

For the feature of claim 23 see claim 23 rejection. For the rest of claim 29 feature, see claim 9 rejection.

For the feature of claim 24 see claim 24 rejection. For the rest of claim 30 feature, see claim 10 rejection.

### *Conclusion*

9. The following summarizes the status of the claims:

35 USC § 102 rejection: Claims 1-30

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Neeman, US 5,588,147, discloses a method for a replication facility provides for the replication of files or portions of files in a distributed environment. The replication facility is able to replicate any subtree within a distributed namespace of the distributed environment.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chih-Ching Chow whose telephone number is 571-272-3693. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on 571-272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC2100 Group receptionist: 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chih-Ching Chow

Examiner

Art Unit 2192

June 20, 2005



CC

ANTONY NGUYEN-BA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER